

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100773

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON AMEMBASSY  
VIENTIANE FROM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 14 MAY 74 (141120Z MAY 74):

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOFTENING OF THE DRV ATTITUDE TOWARD THAILAND

REF: A. FBIS OKINAWA P120800Z MAY 74

SUMMARY: "THE NATION" NEWSPAPER MAY 13 HEADLINED A STORY  
BASED ON A NORTH VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (NVNA) BROADCAST  
CALLING FOR CONCRETE RTG ACTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. "THE NATION" QUOTES "OBSERVERS"  
SAYING THE BROADCAST INDICATES A SWITCH TO A POSITIVE  
DRV APPROACH. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED TO THE  
"NATION" REPORT BY SAYING IT RAISES THE HOPES FOR A  
DIALOGUE. MEANWHILE, THE VICE GOVERNOR OF UBON PROVINCE  
TOLD AN OFFICER OF THE UDORN CONSULATE THAT HE HAD HEARD  
FROM SENIOR BANGKOK OFFICIALS THAT THE RTG IS ACTIVELY  
PURSUING CONTACTS WITH THE DRV THROUGH THE FRENCH EM-  
BASSIES IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE.

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1. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE NATION" IN A MAY 13 HEADLINE STORY (REF A) RECOUNTED AN NVNA BROADCAST "CALLING ON THAILAND TO TAKE SOME CONCRETE ACTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." A COMMENTARY FROM THE HANOI DAILY "NHAN DAN" WAS REPUTEDLY THE BASIS FOR THE BROADCAST. "THE NATION" QUOTED OBSERVERS AS SAYING THAT "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE NEGATIVE APPROACH TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO A POSITIVE ONE". "THE NATION" STORY WENT ON TO QUOTE EXTENSIVELY FROM THE BROADCAST'S OUTLINE OF OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. THESE INCLUDED THE STATIONING OF U.S. FORCES AND AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND, THAI "COLLUSION WITH THE US IN OPPOSING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE", AND THE DETENTION OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN THAILAND.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA, IN A MAY 13 NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID, ACCORDING TO "THE NATION", THAT "IF THE REPORT IS CORRECT, IT RAISES HOPE OF A DIALOGUE". A KEY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD US MAY 14 THAT THE DRV HAD YET TO COMMUNICATE ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE RTG OFFICIALLY.

4. VICE GOVERNOR DETACHAT WONGKOMONCHET TOLD AN OFFICER FROM THE UDORN CONSULATE THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK THAT THE RTG IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT THE DRV WITH THE HELP OF THE FRENCH EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE. THE VICE GOVERNOR SAID A SOURCE TOLD HIM THANAT KHOMAN HAD STATED PRIVATELY TO DR. PUAI UNGPHAKON THAT SOME EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION BETWEEN THE RTG AND DRV WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN A YEAR. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF EITHER POSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: THE FBIS TEXT SEEMS TO SUPPORT THE "NATION'S CONTENTION THAT THE BROADCAST INDICATES A SHIFT TO THE POSITIVE IN HANOI'S APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. THE VITUPERATIVE LANGUAGE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED PAST HANOI STATEMENTS CONCERNING THAILAND IS MISSING IN THIS LATEST PRONOUNCEMENT. WHILE THE TONE IS HARDLY CONCESSIONAL, THE STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES

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AND OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED RELATIONS IS CONSTRUCTIVE, POSSIBLY HINTING THAT HANOI COULD FORGET THE "SINS" OF PREVIOUS THAI REGIMES IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO TAKE ACTION TO MEET DRV DEMANDS. THE MFA IS PLAYING THIS POSSIBLE OVERTURE DIPLOMATICALLY AND CAUTIOUSLY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE WHEN THEY OBTAIN A TRANS-

LATION OF THE ORIGINAL "NHAN DAN" ARTICLE. EMBASSY  
VIENTIANE MAY WISH TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHETHER THE  
FRENCH HAVE A HAND IN THIS APPARENT CHANGE OF DRV TUNE.  
WE WILL MAKE DISCREET INQUIRIES OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE.  
MASTERS UNQUOTE RUSH

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